

Jan 2018

Newsletter

Happy New Year!

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year to you all and I do hope you enjoyed the festive season with your family and friends. At the end of the Autumn Term we said a very sad good bye to Tracey Parton, Principal at St Peter's, Stonnall and Pam Edwards, Principal at Holy Trinity, Oswestry. I know you will join me in thanking them for their years of support and hard work and wish Tracey and Pam all the very best for the future.

We welcome Rod Dickson as the newly appointed Principal at Holy Trinity, Oswestry and congratulate Sarah Cockshott who will take up the role of Executive Principal of St John's, Wednesbury and St Peter's, Stonnall. She will be supported by the newly appointed Heads of School : James Dean at St Peter's and Sharon Brackpool at St John's.

During the Spring Term we will be welcoming three more schools to the Trust:

- Stoke Minster Church of England Primary School, Stoke on Trent
- Trinity Church of England Primary School, Wolverhampton
- Brewood Church of England Middle School, Staffordshire

I am sure you will all support us in welcoming our new academy colleagues to the Trust family.

We were pleased to welcome Christine Quinn, Regional School Commissioner, to our Principal's Forum last term; she shared her aspirations for the development of Multi Academy Trusts - more information is included in the newsletter. We were also invited in November, to meet with Lorna Fitzjohn, West Midlands Lead for Ofsted, to discuss the outcomes of the academies within St Chad's Multi Academies Trust. Lorna spoke favourably about the school to school support in place and the opportunities for Principals to join reviews across the Trust. Lastly we received congratulations from the DfE on the very successful Ofsted at St John's, Wednesbury — well done to everyone!!! As we enter the Spring Term may I wish you all continued success for the new year. Do not hesitate to contact us if your need any support and please do continue to send us your good news and events!

Best wishes,

Sue Wedgwood

CEO – St Chad's and Wulfrun Academies Trust

December Festivities

Churchfield CE Primary Academy

Year 5 at Churchfield C.E. Primary Academy designed and created their Christmas tree for Lichfield Cathedral based upon the idea of stopping the pollution caused by single use plastics. The children and staff have been deeply moved by the impact this is having upon the world's oceans and sea life. They used a range of different plastic materials to create an array of sea life. Designing and producing the 'decorations' took a great deal of care and thought. We are really proud of their artistic skills as well as the depth of thought which they have demonstrated through studying the impact pollution is having.

December certainly brought its challenges in terms of weather for us all! Thank you to all Principals, Chairs and staff for your informed decision making and communication regarding academy closure. Not only was the safety of children and staff part of the process but the fact that parents were given due notice, which in regard to child care is so important.

You kindly sent some photographs of your endeavours! Here is one of them.....the staff at St John's ,Stafford which we received with a note saying "We're open!"





The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)



Many Congratulations

The Diocese of Lichfield's Director of Education Colin Hopkins has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours list. Colin oversees more than 200 Church schools and academies with almost 50,000 pupils across the Diocese of Lichfield – an area that covers most of the County of Staffordshire, the northern part of the county of Shropshire and a substantial part of the former Metropolitan County of the West Midlands.

He has been awarded the MBE in recognition for his services to education as a school governor and Chair of Trustees of the Church of England Central Education Trust (CECET).

Colin said: "This honour has come as a complete surprise and I have accepted it in recognition of all the great work that our heads, teachers, support staff and governors do in our 207 schools. I am delighted that this award places the Diocese of Lichfield on the map as a major contributor to the structural reform of the education system."



Christine Quinn
Regional Schools
Commissioner for
West Midlands

The Principals of St Chad's were delighted that Christine Quinn (Regional Schools Commissioner) was able to make time in her busy schedule to talk to them about her role and her thoughts on what it means to be part of a MAT.

Christine gave a brief overview of her career from a teacher in Leeds to CEO of Ninestiles Academy Trust drawing on the great impact that MATs have on the future prospects of pupils. She stated that every child deserves to go to a good school and that this is best achieved as part of a MAT.

Collaboration was the underlying theme to the talk starting with how "Empty MATs/ Single Academies" and "small MATs" will be encouraged to work with/ merged with other MATs to ensure a sustainable model that has a critical mass for improvement. Christine then expanded this point to how academies should work together to ensure the best outcomes for pupils. The root to this collaboration is to know every academy (especially your "local" academies) within the MAT inside out. This starts from knowing the data and the key issues; to working together on projects; to ultimately take over the leadership of any of the academies in a time of need.

Christine was very pleased to hear about how St Chad's Principals supported in Peer Reviews of other Trust academies pointing out that this is the type of approach she is advocating. Christine was clear that this level of collaboration did not mean that academies could not work with other groups and networks of schools but that the "MAT comes first".



Children in Need

St James C of E Primary Academy supporting Children in Need 2017

Churchfield CE Primary Academy

Churchfield C.E. Primary Academy went spotty for Children in Need and asked for donations from parents towards this. As you can see from the pictures the classes all engaged in different activities to make this a day to remember. We are delighted with the **£317.65** raised.



Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy & Nursery

On Friday 17th November Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy & Nursery showed their support for Pudsey and Children In Need by holding a non uniform day. The children and staff made donations to come to school in non uniform with many of them wearing their Pudsey clothes and ears. One pupil got up extra early to have her face completely painted as Pudsey Bear! A great day was had by all and a fantastic **£232.20** was raised.



We would like to congratulate Peter Finney in Year 6 at St Matthew's CE Primary Academy for producing this excellent and meaningful poem. **Well Done!**

A Harvest of Apples.

A harvest of apples, a harvest of corn,
a harvest of plenty, a harvest we adore.
With bright coloured leaves of multicolour blends,
it's time to share time, with family and friends.

The ears of corn are taken,
picked across the plain.
The farmer sows his many seeds
and the crops will grow again.

A harvest of pumpkins, a harvest of grain .
A harvest of bounty, cared by the rain.
It is a harvest, with limits on high.
A harvest of giving,
to you and I.

He has showered His blessing, showing greed
needs confessing.
Have we been faithful, have we been true?
Have we put God first in all that we do?

God sees harvest, not by the crop.
Nor by the potatoes or the apples that drop.
He sees a harvest of longing people; whose souls
are blankly driven.
So when God sees them, their sins are forgiven.

Lets look at harvest through God's eyes and share
with the nation what He supplied.

By Peter Finney

Please do email Chloe Norton on
chloe.norton@lichfield.anglican.org.uk with
details of any great work that pupils have done in
your academy to feature in our next newsletter.

Bishop Lonsdale CE Primary Academy

As part of Anti Bullying Day, the pupils at Bishop Lonsdale CE Primary Academy each wrote a special tag with either a message of kindness or guidance to a friend who might be being bullied, so they know what to do. The children are dressed in onesies as part of their 'Onesies for Type Onesies' awareness and fundraising day for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).



STEM Day Dawley CE Primary Academy

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) day at Dawley encompassed a range of exciting experiences for the children. The activities included coding, 3D printing, rocket making, food of the future (eating bugs), building bridges and structures, Garage Band music technology and visits from University of Wolverhampton Racing Team, Birmingham City University and other companies. All children from nursery up to year 6 took part. The sessions also included parents having the chance to experience enrichment first hand at 3D Printing and coding.

Planning and bringing people together for the day was done by Susan Coleman, a STEM consultant, who worked with us to make the day possible (with minimal cost to the Academy).



Dawley C of E Primary Academy

'Enriching Learning. Enriching Life'

St James Animal Encounters!

The 'animal man' came in to St James with his array of different creatures, which ranged from crickets to corn snakes! All the children had the opportunity to touch or even hold the animals. Some pupils, who were initially hesitant, were very brave, conquered their fears and embraced the chance to get up close to the wonderful creatures. Miss Bullock, feeling hopeful, was ready to give the huge frog a kiss to see if it would change into Prince Charming.



Churchfield C.E. Primary Academy is really proud to support the heroes who participated in this year's Invictus Games. Scott Yarrington (left) and Dave Watson (right) came to see the children before they left for Toronto in September. Scott and Dave have visited the academy on a number of occasions in the past and the children (and staff) always look forward to their visits.

Both Dave and Scott talk openly with the children about their life changing injuries and how they have fought their way back from these. They really are inspirational figures who demonstrate to all that determination really does conquer adversity.

Dave Watson won gold and a bronze in Discus and Shot put respectively; on Sunday, 24 September 2017 he finished 3rd in the shot by throwing 6.81m. The following day, on Monday, 25 September 2017, he took part in the discus. He threw 21.52m and won gold for Great Britain. Dave is now aiming to make the Paralympic squad. Dave joined the Army in 2008 and served in the Scots Guards. But during a tour of Afghanistan in 2010, he stepped on an improvised explosive device and suffered severe injury.

Scott 'Yaz' Yarrington is a former Army Lance Corporal who lost his legs after stepping on an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. This year was his first Invictus Games and he was a member of the Wheelchair Basketball team. He believes the taking part gives him a goal to strive for and a reason to do regular exercise. Scott and his team achieved a bronze medal during the games.

The children were so inspired by Scott that there was a wheelchair basketball day in the academy where everyone (including an over-competitive staff) had a go at this demanding sport. This day was so well enjoyed that there is now a weekly wheelchair basketball club after school! There are currently plans afoot for a welcome home service to celebrate their achievements. Churchfield will continue to support a range of charities associated with battlefield injuries. Dave and Scott are always warmly welcomed and are regarded as friends of the academy.



Meet The Team

Reena joined the team in June 2017 as HR and Governance Officer. Reena has 7 years' experience in supporting schools and academies in all aspects of Governance including procedures, policies and Governance compliance. She has co-ordinated clerking provision and supported Head teachers/Principals and Chairs of Governors in all aspects of governance management.

She has recently graduated with a CIPD level 5 Diploma in HR Management (picture below). Well done Reena!



EVENTS

Jan 2018– ESFA makes the third quarterly Pupil Premium payment for the 2017-18 financial year

Wednesday 17th Jan 2018– Principals Forum

18th Jan 2018– complete Spring School Census

Friday 26th Jan 2018-EYFS QLC

Wednesday 31st Jan 2018– Head teacher's Conference

Thursday 1st Feb 2018– SEN QLC

Wednesday 14th Feb 2018– Science QLC

Tuesday 6th March 2018 –English QLC

Wednesday 7th March 2018– Maths QLC

Wednesday 21st March 2018
Principals Forum

Keep In Touch

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